



the north shore harmony rag



Joseph Schlesinger, Third Assistant
Temporary Editor and Royal Keeper
of the Minor Typos

North Shore Chapter,
Society for the
Preservation and
Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.

Meetings:
7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Presbyterian Home,
3131 Simpson St.
(Golf Rd.), Evanston, IL
(Guests are welcome!)

February 2003

27 Members

Volume 31, Issue 2

February is Black History Month. This is a perfect time to reflect on the many contributions our African-American brothers have made to the barbershop style of harmony. Find out more about the origins and evolution of our musical style by reading "The Historical Roots of Barbershop Harmony" by Jim Henry, in the July/August 2001 *Harmonizer*. It's also linked to our chapter's Web site.

Singing Valentines: Another Success Story

North Shore Chapter's 2003 Singing Valentines program turned out well, due in part to increased publicity in the local papers.

Final figures have yet to be calculated, but we sold seven valentines this year, for total gross sales of \$350.

Thanks to the singers who participated in calls throughout the day: **Pete Brandt, Noble LeHew, Bill Remien, Joseph Schlesinger, Phil Schwimmer, and Marty Steigman.** And thanks also to **Kevin Jones** for chairing this year's successful effort.

Ready for Contest?

April 26 is the big day, but there's still plenty to do before then. We will soon introduce the interpretational plan for "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" and "Oh! You Beautiful Doll." We also expect to have an outside coach visit either our March 12 or March 19 rehearsal, with a possible follow-up visit in early April.

In the meantime, have you registered for convention and reserved your room? You can do all that via the Illinois District Web site: www.harmonize.ws/ill. Also: is your uniform clean and complete? Does everything fit? Now's the time to check.

"Barbershop Day in Evanston" Committee Selected

The following members have volunteered to serve on a committee to plan, promote, and coordinate the first Barbershop Day in Evanston, to occur some time in October: **Phil Martin, Noble LeHew, Ed Price, Rick Prieto, Joseph Schlesinger, and Phil Schwimmer.**

The committee will hold its first planning meeting at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at Phil Martin's home.

Update on Festivals

The Skokie Festival of Cultures will take place on the weekend of May 17 and 18. For several years, our chorus has performed on this event presented by the Skokie Park District, and we have submitted an application to perform again this year. Our preference is during the afternoon on Saturday, May 17, so please reserve that date. We'll let you know whether or not we are accepted.

Last year was our first appearance as exhibitors in the public information area of the Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival. This year's festival, scheduled for the weekend of July 19 and 20, will not have a public information area (see story on page 4). However, we will apply as performers and hope for better success this year.

We are also planning to solicit performance opportunities at other events, including the Custer's Last Stand Festival of the Arts, Fountain Square Arts Festival, and Arts Week in Evanston. If you know of any additional opportunities, please provide **Joseph Schlesinger** with contacts and other information.

Inside This Issue . . .

Singing Valentines • Spring Contest • Barbershop Day • Festival Update	1
Calendar • Guests • "From the Top"	2
IDAH 2003 • <i>Entertainment</i> Books • Gus Knight Dies • New Quartet Chair	3
Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival • 12 Steps to Using Learning Tapes	4
Earl Moon Scholarship • North Shore Choral Society Spring Concert	5
Fractured Christmas Carols (NOT!!) • Download <i>Free Music</i> Online	6

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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The March Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 2, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home,
3432 Salem Walk E., #AG, Northbrook. All chapter
members are welcome.

Chapter Web site: www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat
(Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

January/February Guests

John Brauer
Amy Rushlow (Northwestern University
student)
Larry Russell (Presbyterian Home resident)

“From the Top”

Things seem to be opening up for us. Singing Valentines are through for the season, and yet we're still getting a few stray inquiries, even as February begins to fade into March.

The demand for **North Shore Four** and **Hospitality** performances has begun to increase, and we've had to pass some inquiries to other chapter quartets. We hope that our usual springtime promotion to chambers of commerce, park districts, and sponsors of summer concerts will lead to more chorus performances as well.

Can it be that North Shore Chapter is finally rounding the corner? The next few months should be telling: if we can make an impressive showing in spring contest—maybe even finish in the top five—and then attract some good, enthusiastic singers to our chapter, our future may be brighter than ever.

Our quartet activity, that aspect of our hobby that is so dear to me, is now under the capable leadership of **Paul Mimura**. We now have one of the strongest, most unified music teams we've had in years—the

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**

Wed., 3/12—**Possible Change of Meeting Night to Thursday, March 13**, in order to accommodate our outside coach. We'll try to keep you posted, but please try to be flexible.

Fri., 4/11—**Happy 65th Birthday, SPEBSQSA!**
(We ain't ready to retire!)

Fri., 4/25-Sun., 4/27—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

Sat., 5/17—**Potential Shoreliner Chorus Performance at 13th Annual Skokie Festival of Cultures**—some time in the afternoon at Oakton Park, Skokie.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

Elsewhere:

Fri., 2/21—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m.
(dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall,
Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barber-shoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 847/678-0092.

Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:
www.bbs.singer.as



challenge is to get them all together at one time and place for periodic meetings. But that's another story.

We have a couple of months of hard work ahead of us as we prepare for Peoria. But the reward is that we'll be better musicians for it.

Thank you all for your dedication, attention, and involvement in our brotherhood and in our wonderful hobby of Barbershopping!

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
President

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA is a group of men of all ages who enjoy gathering in fellowship to sing in the four-part, a cappella, close harmony style known as barbershop. As we participate in our varied social and musical activities, including both choral and quartet singing, our members can develop their vocal skills and their appreciation of the rich heritage of American song, which we share with our community through performances in a variety of settings.

“Performing live is as close as you get to making love. There’s the anticipation, the adrenaline when you are performing, and the big satisfactor when you wind down—that’s like having a cigarette afterwards.”

—Tom Jones

IDAH 2003 in Review

—Rick Prieto

Paul Mimura and **Rick Prieto** attended the Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH) held in Springfield on Friday, Feb. 8 and Saturday, Feb. 9.

Approximately 90 barber-shop enthusiasts participated in teaching and learning barbershop fundamentals. Paul and I took a course in Barbershop technology that included a Friday evening session on chapter use of the Internet; a Saturday morning session on recording chorus and quartet performances, and a Saturday afternoon session on using computer software to digitally record, edit, and improve music performances. Recommendations were made on equipment, software and suppliers. Paul and I have session handouts and will share them with anyone interested in the details.

Here’s a Special Entertainment Deal!

Entertainment Sales Chairman **Pete Brandt** reports that the publishers of the *Entertainment 2003* discount coupon book have announced a special offer.

From now until Feb. 28, any books sold on behalf of North Shore Chapter will garner our organization a rebate of \$10 per book—that’s \$6 more per book than we received under the normal arrangement. However, all books must be prepaid by our chapter.

So if you have any potential customers, please get your orders and payment to Pete before the end of the month.

The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening after-dinner performance of quartets that took the quartet-coaching course offered on Saturday. Included were “Top Gun” quartets trained by special teachers **Jay Giallombardo**, **Don Clause**, and **George Gipp** for international competition. This year a total of 13 quartets provided a very entertaining one-and-a-half-hour concert. The Top Gun performers included **Alchemy**, **Aces High** and **Cheers!**. Paul and I had chords ringing in our heads all the way home.

The \$90 fee included training, hotel, and three country-style meals. There was no extra charge for singing as a large chorus, woodshedding, and learning some new tags.



Don't Miss the 19th Annual Midwest Harmony Sweeps!

7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 15, 2003
North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: \$17.50—all seats reserved. To order, phone 847/673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org on the Web. Hosts: 2002 Midwest Sweeps Champs, **Chapter 6**.

Gus Knight Dies

Gus Knight passed away Jan. 25 in Sarasota, Fla., at the age of 84.

Very few of us have been involved with North Shore Chapter long enough to remember Gus when he was active. He held numerous chapter offices in the late 1940s, culminating in his presidency during 1950-51.

Gus rejoined our chapter a few years ago following a hiatus of more than 30 years, but was an inactive member during this time.

Some facts about Gus that you might not have known:

- Served in the Naval Reserve during World War II and witnessed the surrender ceremony on the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.
- Became president, CEO, and director of Glenview State Bank.
- Served two terms as Winnetka village president.
- Was a trustee of the Ravinia Festival Association; treasurer, president, and chairman of the Music Center of the North Shore; treasurer of the Chicago Community Music Foundation; and a trustee of New Trier Township High School.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, three daughters, and four grandchildren. According to his obituary in Pioneer Press, memorial contributions may be made to the Augustus Knight Music Scholarship Fund, in care of **Penny Knight**, 15 Park St., Milton, MA 02186. The fund assists aspiring music students attending college.

New Quartet Chair

Paul Mimura has accepted the position of Quartet Activities Chairman, effective immediately.

No Public Info Area at 2003 Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival

We received the following e-mail from the volunteer coordinator at last year's Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival. As you may recall, the public information exhibit area is where we had our table set up. We will still express our interest in having the **Shoreliner Chorus** perform during the festival, but it appears we will no longer have an opportunity to exhibit.

* * * * *

Dear Ethnic Arts Public Information Participants:

I have just received the ultimatum that there will be NO public information exhibit area for the Evanston Ethnic Arts Festival in 2003 (and probably not thereafter).

Your organization has made a valuable contribution in the past, and I sincerely regret that "the powers that be" have come down with this negative decision. Since Public Information (with its varying views and news) was my pride and joy, I will be leaving the Festival Committee altogether.

If you have found EAAF a good venue and would like to express your disappointment about this policy, please e-mail hgreenbatt@cityofevanston.org, with CC to dgaynor@cityofevanston.org (BCC copy to me if you wish). I will greatly miss seeing all of you this year.

—Elizabeth G. Stout
eglizard@aol.com

Have You Forgotten Something??

Hope you didn't forget to call that guest and invite him to this meeting. Better yet, why not *bring* him to the next one?

Twelve Steps to Using Learning Tapes

—Carolyn Sexton (Sweet Adelines International, Inc. Region 19)

For the novice Barbershopper, having to learn an entire repertoire can be a daunting challenge. Here is a system that helps to simplify and speed up the process.

This is a 12-step program to assist you in learning new music. It is only a suggestion until you learn a system that is best for you.

The success of this program is contingent upon the effective listening skills of the learner—much more than upon one's music background or the ability to read music.

Any of the 12 steps may be repeated before continuing to the next step. But remember, each step is important to the overall results of learning all the notes, words and timing of the song. Do not eliminate any of the steps because it appears to be insignificant.

The Twelve Steps

1. Listen to the music on the master tape with your eyes closed. (This will familiarize you with the notes, timing and general flavor of the song.)
2. Watch the notes on your music while you listen to the tape. Do not sing yet!
3. Again, watch the notes on your music while you listen to the tape. Do not sing yet!
4. Watch the words on your music while you listen to the tape. Please, no singing yet.
5. On a separate sheet of paper (or on the back of your music), write all the lyrics to the new song. Now watch your own paper while you listen to the tape. No, not yet . . . don't sing, please.
6. Watch the notes again while you listen to the tape. Remember, no singing.
7. Watch the words on your music while you listen to the tape. Be careful, not a sound.
8. Try to write down the words again on another sheet of paper without looking at the printed music. If you have trouble, listen to the tape again. Watch the words and then again try to write them without looking at the music. Stay on this step until you can write down all the correct words without looking back at the printed music. Now, proceed to Step 9.
9. Hurray! Finally you can add your voice. Watch the notes on your music while you HUM along with the tape. Hum . . . hum. Singing is next.
10. Watch the words on your music while you sing along with the tape. Can you believe this? You're really going to SING this song for the very first time. If you have any difficulty, circle the spot(s) on your music as you go all the way through. Then go back and listen (don't sing) to those parts again.
11. Put a clean tape in your tape recorder. On this tape, record as you sing the new part all the way through without looking at your music. (Bet you can hardly wait to hear this step!)
12. VERY IMPORTANT STEP. Watch the music as you listen to your own tape to see if you sang the notes correctly. You should be wonderful. But, should you have any doubts, go back and check your part again on the master tape. Concentrate on listening to the parts you circled earlier to be sure you have made corrections.

CONGRATULATIONS! With a little bit of luck plus all your hard work, you are now the proud possessor of one more selection of music made beautiful by your addition of all the correct notes, words and timing.

—seen in Akron, Ohio Chapter
Derbytown Gazette
Ed Crosley, editor

Last spring the judges said we need . . .

- More driving rhythm in uptunes.
- Consistent level of facial commitment to each song's message.
- More "dynamic tension" in vocal support and stance.
- Tighter sectional unity—closer blend of voices.
- Completed ends of phrases and eliminated white spaces.
- Warm air added to vocal quality.
- Sounds sung, not words.
- Continuous breath pressure.
- Greater dynamic contrast throughout phrases.

Note to accompany the article to the right:

If you've always wanted to attend Harmony College, but were tight on funds, this may provide your opportunity.

Harmony College 2003 will be held July 27-Aug. 3 at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Mo.

Find out more about all that Harmony College has to offer by visiting the Society's Web site (www.spebsqsa.org) — click on the "Happenings" tab, then click on "Schools."

Scholarship Panel Seeks Applicants

The Whittier, Calif. Chapter established a Memorial Endowment Fund in the name of legendary barbershopper **Earl Moon**. He was their director for over 25 years. His long-standing reputation as a premiere faculty member at Harmony College is known to anyone who ever attended Harmony College.

The Earl Moon Memorial Endowment Fund will, in perpetuity, provide tuition payments for a limited number of deserving Barbershoppers each year. Although the fund is managed by Harmony Foundation in Kenosha, the actual selection of candidates is managed by the Whittier Chapter Past Presidents organization.

Earl not only was a great quartet coach, chorus director, arranger and teacher, but also a true champion of the Joe Barbershoppers of our Society. The Whittier Chapter is basing the selection criteria on the principles that characterize such members. Earl gave much of his time and talent to helping these men become better singers and learn the history of our great hobby.

QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate must be:

1. A member of the Society for at least three years.
2. A member who is active and involved in his chapter.
3. A member who has never attended Harmony College and might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so.
4. A member who will personally benefit from attending Harmony College.
5. A member who will bring his new-found knowledge back and share it with his chapter.

GUIDELINES

1. The Earl Moon Scholarship is open to all qualifying members of the Society, funds permitting.
2. Whittier Chapter members are excluded.
3. The candidate's chapter Board of Directors must submit the application and may submit only one application per year.
4. The scholarship will only cover Harmony College tuition. All other expenses, including transportation, are the responsibility of the candidate.
5. The application must be received by the Whittier Chapter Secretary by May 1 of the current year.
6. The Whittier Chapter Past Presidents will screen all applications, make their selections, and submit them to the Whittier Chapter Board of Directors for action.
7. The accepted candidates will be notified by U.S. mail and by e-mail (if applicable). A copy of the notification will also be sent to the candidate's chapter president.

Please visit Whittier Chapter's Web site at <http://www.choralaires.org>, where you will find a copy of this letter and the application form. You may also fax or e-mail a request for an application: fax: 626/336-7755, e-mail pboyle@choralaires.org, or by U.S. mail. Completed applications should be faxed or sent to:

Earl Moon Scholarship
Whittier Chapter, SPEBSQSA
P.O. Box 4262
Whittier CA, 90607

[Note: If interested, submit your application to **Joseph Schlesinger** by April 1.]

Here's Some Other Good Singing in the Neighborhood

Phil Martin announces that his other singing group, the **North Shore Choral Society**, will present "Music to Delight: A Colorful Collage" as their spring concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 2.

The concert will be given at the Parish Church of St. Luke, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, and will feature a potpourri of vocal selections, including works by **Cecil Effinger**, **Robert Schuman**, **Igor Stravinsky**, **Norman Dello Joio**, and **Peter Schickele** (better known as **P.D.Q. Bach**).

Tickets sold at the door are \$15, with discounts available for advance sales, students, and senior citizens. Find out more by calling 847/328-5158, visiting their Web site at www.northshorechoral.org, or talking to Phil.

Hey guys, barbershop isn't the only game in town. Let's show some support for other local singing organizations whether or not they feel moved to reciprocate.



(You'll sound better!)

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • February 2003

Thanks, as always, to those who have brought snacks to chapter meetings. More often than not, these kind souls do not seek reimbursement from the chapter.

Download *Free Music Online*

There's no better bargain than *free* music! Here's how to get your copies.

Free & Easy music is not only free to get and easy to sing, but is free and easy to find and download from the Society web site. Go to <http://www.spebsqsa.org>, click on "Sing and Perform," then click on "Get Music." There you have two choices that will get you where you want to go. Click on "Download sheet music now!" or "Music Library." Either link will get you to a list of 54 documents, both songs and tags, that you can download for free! Click on the ones you want. They will download to your computer and you can print them out or read them on screen.

There are also a few audio previews of Free and Easy available. To listen to them, click back to the "Get Music" page and then click on the link to "Audio previews of Free & Easy." There you can download audio files and listen to some samples.

There are many great resources on the Society web site. Do a little browsing and you can find many music, singing, performing, and educational resources that you can use with your quartet, chorus, or even for personal interest and self-improvement.

—from SPEBSQSA
Live Wire
Reed Sampson, editor

Got Time for a Groaner?

(Thanx to former member **Bob Levi**, who got this from whoknowswhere . . .)

While I was preaching in a church in Mississippi, the pastor announced that their prison quartet would be singing the following evening. I wasn't aware there was a prison in the vicinity and I looked forward to hearing them. The next evening, I was puzzled when four members of the church approached the stage. Then the pastor introduced them. "This is our prison quartet," he said, "behind a few bars and always looking for the key."